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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.

: 10/605,451

Confirmation No.: 2450

Applicants:

: Michael H. Hunt

Preston E. Smith

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Examiner

: John B. Walsh

Docket No.

: 1369.02

Customer No.

: 21901

For

: Hydraulic Piston Locking Device

Faxed to Technology Center 3600 at (703) 872-9326

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents

P. O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT A

Introductory Comments

Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Action mailed 06/24/2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire 09/24/2004, the above-identified patent application is amended a first time as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.